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Srinivasa Bala Bharati

PRAHLADA

English Translation

B. Parvati



Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams,
Tirupati

Srinivasa Bala Bharati - 142
(*Children Series*)

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Telugu Version
Dhanakudharam Varadacharyulu

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Prof. Ravva Sri Hari

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FOREWORD

If a beautiful garden is to be raised, one needs to take proper care of tender flower plants. In the same way in order to create a good society, great care needs to be taken of young children who are going to be future citizens of India. All their intellectual attainments will be futile if they fail to learn of their culture and its greatness. They need to be told of great men and women of this country so that they are inspired by their ideals. The essentials of our culture should be given to them in the form of simple and charming stories. They will cherish these ideals and be guided by them. They will promote good and they will love the society they live in. They make their families proud and bring great prestige to their country when they grow up into good citizens.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams have brought out these booklets for children in Telugu under Srinivasa Bala Bharati Series. Although meant for children, they are useful to the elderly too. They have found place in the book shelves of every family. The stories of legendary men and women are narrated in a simple way. We hope that more and more children will read them and profit by them.

I congratulate Dr. R. Sri Hari, Editor-in-Chief, TTD for his efforts in bringing out the English translations of SRINIVASA BALA BHARATI SERIES so well. We have received co-operation of many learned men and women in our efforts to popularize this series. I am thankful to them.

In the Service of the Lord

Executive Officer,

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.
Tirupati.

FOREWORD

Today's children are tomorrow's citizens. They need apt acquaintance with the life-histories of celebrated persons at tender so that they get opportunity to lead their lives in an exemplary way. They will come to know that great things such as Indian culture, basic tenets of life and moral teachings are abundantly available in the life-experiences of great men. It is observed that there is no scope to teach such subjects in school curriculum.

Observing such circumstances the Publication Division of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has published about hundred booklets in Telugu about the lives of famous sages and great men written by various authors under the editorship of Dr.S.B. Raghunathacharya under "Bala Bharati Series". The response to these books is tremendous and it has given impetus to publish them in other languages also. To begin with, some of the books are now brought out in English and Hindi by T.T.D. for the benefit of boys and girls and the interested public.

These booklets, primarily intended to the growing children and also to the elders to study and narrate the stories to their children, will go a long way to sublimate the aspirations of the children to greater heights.

R. SRI HARI
Editor-In-Chief
T.T.D.

Welcome To Srinivasa Balabharati Series

The series is the outcome of abundant grace of Lord Sri Venkateswara.

This will be an unfailing source of inspiration to the young.

It enshrines the best of Bharatiya tradition. May this noble endeavour be successful.

India has been known for its culture and civilization, its ethical and dharmic way of life from time immemorial. India has marched ahead with its commitment to dharma, its resistance to adharma, its espousal of life-affirming values and its humane attitude to life as a journey towards God realization. Those who embodied these values in their life have been a beacon of light to us. Their impact is deep on the life we lead. Young boys and girls will find them exemplary and feel proud of their invaluable heritage. They will love their motherland and dedicate themselves to its service.

It is therefore necessary that the young learn about these great men and women so that they will realize their indebtedness to them for their selfless contribution to the enrichment of life. This should indeed be a chief component of true education which ensures the perennial continuity of Indian culture and civilization. SRINIVASA BALA BHARATI SERIES has come into existence to acquaint the young boys and girls with right perspective of Indian life and values through a series of booklets written exclusively for this purpose describing in brief the lives of great men and women.

We welcome you to share our joy in launching these booklets.

S.B. Raghunathacharya

Cheif Editor

Would one's own father subject his son to suffering and physical torture? Why would he let elephants trample over him ? Make him swallow poison ? Let snakes bite him ? Have him thrown into the sea ? Could this happen anywhere? Can it be true ? Yes-it did happen, it is true. The child did not give up his goal. He did not give up his God. The tortures had no effect on him at all. The God to whom he prayed came to his rescue. That boy was not an ordinary boy. He was a great devotee. Do you know what the the test of his devotion was ? When the boy told his father -- "I will show you my lord who is there everywhere," -- Sri Maha Vishnu manifested himself in the form of Narasimha in every atom of the world. Do you know why he did that? It was to prove his devotee's faith. The demon's sins were ripe. He struck the pillar saying "Is Hari here?" God came out from that very pillar in the form of Narasimha. Such was the boy, supreme among the great devotees of God. Do you know who the boy was ? He was Prahlada. He occupies a prominent place in our epics. He stands for the ideal which is to have steadfast faith and strength in the face of all suffering.

Chief Editor

PRAHLADA

That is Sri Vaikuntha the abode of Lord Vishnu. Its splendour is indescribable. In that divine abode on the gem platform of a fragrant thousand pillared hall, surrounded by the eternal and the liberated souls, there shines Sri Maha Vishnu with the splendour of innumerable Suns along with his consorts Sri Devi, Bhu Devi and Nila Devi.

The curse of Jaya and Vijaya :

Once upon a time-the four sons of Brahma called Sanaka, Sananda, Sanatkumara and Sanatsujata aged about five or six years, going over the three worlds reached Vaikuntha to worship Lord Vishnu. There, the guards at the entrance Jaya and Vijaya barred their entry. Hence, the maharshis who were irate-cursed them- "May you be born as demons on earth!" Then, deeply saddened and grief stricken, Jaya and Vijaya-fell at the feet of the divine child rishis and pleaded with them in many ways to show the way to be freed from the curse. The rishis took pity at once said that the way out of the curse is to be born as enemies of Vishnu in three births and in the fourth come back to him in Vaikuntha.

The seething anger of Hiranyakasipa :

Thus bound by the curse, Jaya and Vijaya went to Sriman Narayana, took leave of him, came to the earth and were born as the sons of Diti named Hiranyakasipa

and Hiranyaksha. When Hiranyaksha of the two had stolen the Vedas and took shelter in the nether world-Patala-Sri Hari in the incarnation of Bhuvaraha killed Hiranyaksha and retrieved the Vedas. Hiranyakasipa's inborn animosity towards Vishnu increased manifold because Sri Hari killed his brother Hiranyaksha. With fire in his looks and his grief welling up he spoke to the demon warriors thus:

“Oh brave warriors of the demons! Have you heard of this news? Tidings came that Vishnu killed Hiranyaksha-my dear brother and the best among your friends. We must avenge his death by killing Hari by any means. If he hides himself frightened by the strength of my arms, I must find him wherever he is, pierce his neck with the sharp point of my spear and make my brother's soul rest in peace. So, start at once all of you, surround the hamlets where brahmins live; find all those who are performing yajnas and those studying the Vedas and cut them away into pieces. Destroy all the practices and duties of the social order and wipe them away without a trace. Slaughter all the cows, calves and bulls. This is the time for you to show all your courage and strength. Get into the field of action.”

The demons rise :

Ordered thus by Hiranyakasipa the valiant demons at once set upon their rampage, went to holy places, cities and hamlets, tortured those brahmins and

mendicants devoted to the study of the Vedas, tortured cows, set fire to all those human habitats and wrecked life on earth.

This evil news spread with speed of wind to the world of the Gods. There trembling with fear even the Gods went into hiding.

The fiery penance of Hiranyakasipa :

Hiranyakasipa performed the final rites of his younger brother, comforted his brother's sons, their mothers and his mother and set for the region of the Mandara Mountain. There practicing severe austerities, standing on a single toe, hands raised, staring steadfastly at the sky he started a terrible penance. The earth shook at the power of his penance. All the seven seas became turbulent at the same time. Stars fell in a shower to the earth. The three worlds trembled; the animal world was terror stricken. Then the Gods, very much afraid, went to Lord Brahma in Satyaloka and prayed to him in the following way:

“Oh Lord! We are not able to withstand the impact of Hiranyakasipa’s penance at all. He has resolved to erase the Gods and to put an end to the Vedic order. We cannot live any longer in Amaravati. You must think of a remedy to put an end to his atrocities and save us. Protect all the worlds.”

Lord Brahma having listened to the pleadings of the Gods, took Maharshi Bhrigu, Daksha Prajapati and



others to the Mandara Mountain region on earth and greatly surprised on seeing Hiranyakasipa who was only skin and bones on account of his severe penance, spoke the following words:

"Oh king of the demons! Nobody ever before had done such penance like the one you have done. Nor can anyone do it again. It is impossible for anybody to give up food and water and sustain life in the body for a hundred years, which you did. I am very pleased with the austerity of your penance. So, ask for a boon which you want," and sprinkled the water from his 'kamandala' on the demon king's body. At once Hiranyakasipa rose from the thick ant hill that grew

around him, made obeisance to Lord Brahma falling prostrate head long and praising him said like this:

The boons of Brahma :

"Oh Lord of the world! There is none above you in granting wishes of those who seek and in protecting them. Oh ocean of kindness, hark unto my wishes. Grant me the boon that death shall not come to me in the air, on earth, in fire, in water, on ten sides, at night or in day light, by crocodiles, demons, serpents, Gods, men, by animals or by weapons. Moreover, grant me unopposed valour in war and powers that are vastly higher than those of the protectors of the world." When Hiranyakasipa prayed thus, Lord Brahma granted all that he asked for and said:

"Oh son of Kasyapa! None has sought such boons earlier. Even so, pleased by your penance, I have granted you all the boons you desired. Now, conduct yourself with care and intelligence," and disappeared.

Revenge was the sole goal :

Hiranyakasipa who earned impossible boons from Brahma in this manner then decided to overpower Sri Hari and avenge his brother's death. It was his ultimate goal. He started punishing Gandharvas, Gods, Nagas and Yakshas cruelly. He subdued the arrogance of human beings. He killed Kinneras, Sadhyas, Charanas, Bhootas, Pretas, Pisachas and Vidyadharas. He

attacked the eight lords of the sides and occupied their places. Even day and night moved as per his command. He entered Amaravati the seat of all luxuries and usurped the throne as the overlord of the three worlds. Yakshas, Kinneras, Gods and the Gandharvas all bowed before him and served him in different ways. Lord Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara were the only three who did not pay him tributes.

Satiated with much liquor as Hiranyakasipa, went around the beautiful gardens in Amaravati with his wife Lilavati, the divine singers Narada and Tumbura who were afraid, spent time singing some song or the other.

When the maharshis performed yagas on the earth, Hiranyakasipa usurped the 'havis' without letting them go to the Gods. At his command fields yielded abundant crops of all types. Wealth and prosperity rained from the sky as though these came from Kamadhenu and Kalpavriksha on those who desired them. The seven seas cast mounds of gems on the shore from their waves. Trees were bedecked with flowers always irrespective of seasons. Trees were laden with fruits. The unrighteous acts of this demon blinded by arrogance made all the worlds topsy turvy.

Vishnu's assurance :

As there seemed to be no end at all to the demon's rule, giving up sleep and food the Gods and others

began to meditate on Hari the God who cuts the bonds of this world . At that time Sri Maha Vishnu, the great protector of the worlds, invisible, granting them the boon of fearlessness, while the skies resounded in his stern voice, assured them in this manner:

"Oh Gods! Do not be afraid. The time is nearing for all sentient beings to live in peace and prosperity. The words and deeds of Hiranyakasipa are not unknown to me. But I will slay the demon at the appropriate time. Those who persecute the Gods, the saintly and kindhearted men, cows and brahmins, those who condemn the Vedic duties, those who rant against me, those who move about in uncurtailed freedom, those who enthroned on the seat fail in duty and indulge in unrighteous practices they all must one day reap the evil fruits of their conduct. Hiranyakasipa will torture his son and my devotee Prahlada badly. At that time I shall slay the demon-the troubling thorn of the three worlds. Go back without a care."

Prahlada is born :

When Sri Maha Vishnu the protector of the good and destroyer of the evil doers assured them in this manner the Gods and all others who went to him praying, offered salutations to him, sang in praise of him; feeling happy that the end of Hiranyakasipa is near at hand they returned to their homes. By then Prahlada the son of Hiranyakasipa was born.

That boy Prahlada - - showering affection on all beings, saluting elders in a spirit of humility and obedience, treating all women as mothers, with a kindly disposition towards the sorrowful, treating friends as his brothers, treating his mentors as Gods and without uttering an untruth even in jest - - lived a model life.

Just as a pure soul is attached to the supreme soul Sri MahaVishnu, all virtues attached themselves firmly to young Prahlada. Being a devotee of Hari by birth the boy meditated on Sriman Narayana at all times.

Hiranyakasipa's worry :

Prahlada's acts grieved Hiranyakasipa. He was very unhappy because a son without sharpness of mind was born to him who terrorized the three worlds with the power of his penance. So he decided that except by learning the dull boy will not become quick witted.

Prahlada enters gurukula :

One day Hiranyakasipa drew his dear son Prahlada close to him lovingly and said: "Son, a person without learning cannot become a wise one. Learning gives the ability to perceive right and wrong. So I will place you under the care of gurus and make you a learned one. Be diligent". He invited Chandamarkas, the sons of Sukracharya, felicitated them and said:

"Oh sons of our guru! You are our teachers; you are close to our heart. You are venerable. This boy

Prahlada is now in a state of thick ignorance. This boy has the least feeling that he is the son of a valorous father. So teach him all the sastras and send him back a learned and wise one." So saying he gave Prahlada into their care.

Then Chandamarkas took Prahlada along with them and in the company of boys of the same age gave him careful instruction in many sastras. Prahlada learnt the lessons as they taught him. Never did he once defy his masters. The boy had ample respect for them. But in his heart he was convinced that all that learning that did not let one know about Lord Vishnu was no learning.

What all have you learnt ?

Some time passed by. Hiranyakasipa thought of his son. "I wonder what lessons the masters have taught my young son! To what extent could he have proceeded? I must summon him and hear to my heart's content the details of his learning process." So thinking he held court in the spacious hall and sent word to Chandamarkas to bring young Prahlada to his presence.

As per the order of the demon king Chandamarkas brought Prahlada along with them to the court hall. Hiranyakasipa embraced his son in great happiness, kissed him on his forehead and seating him in his lap said: "My son! Prahlada! Are you learning the lessons

in the way the masters have been teaching you? What have you learnt so far? Let me hear all about them in detail and make me immensely happy."

Then Prahlada replied thus to his father:

All of it is Vishnu's play :

"Father! The family is like a dark well to every person born on this earth. So, one needs to be intelligent in order not to fall into that well. The right remedy to avoid it is not to be deluded and to have the same attitude of love towards one and all. We should realize that "all is Vishnu's play" and fix the mind on Lord Vishnu. After fixing the mind in the manner this family should be left to dwell in some forest."

Hiranyakasipa's surprise :

Hiranyakasipa was surprised to hear his son speak at length in praise of his enemy Sri Hari. But he controlled himself and smiling at his son spoke again. "Son, I am amazed listening to your words. Is this thought born of your own mind! Or has anyone else taught you these wrong morals? Or has by any chance the masters themselves taught such things secretly to you alone? Sri Hari is the great enemy of our demon clan. Hence, you should not at all speak in praise of him. Never speak of him again."

Having listened to his father who spoke these words, looking at Chandamarkas Prahlada said as follows:

My mind is devoted to Sri Hari :

My revered masters! The difference of thee and me is caused due to ignorance. For such ignorance to be removed one should have steadfast devotion to God. God can become ours due to such steadfast devotion. Some fools in their ignorance do not meditate on Hari who is all present. Even Brahma and all others who have knowledge of the Vedas also worship Sri Maha Vishnu. But those who are in ignorance can they have any interest in Hari? As iron gets attracted towards magnet my heart is attracted by Hari."

Chandamarkas admonition :

When Chandamarkas heard Prahlada speak thus they grew very angry. Eyes bulging in anger, looking at Prahlada with disapproval they said:

"You are a child. You who are only five years old, do you intend to argue with us? How can you insult us before the demon king by not telling him even one aspect of the sastras we taught you? How can you praise the enemy and decry your clan?" Scolding Prahlada thus, they addressed Hiranyakasipa like this:

"Oh, demon king, Sir! We taught Prahlada taking much trouble. But just now we realized that this boy needs more discipline. So we will make him learn properly. Please do not be angry."

Having thus made their submission, instilling fear in many ways in to his heart the brahmins took the boy Prahlada along with them to their abode.

There seating Prahlada alone by their side the masters taught him about dharma, artha and kama for some more time again. They taught him about dharma, artha and kama in application comprehensively; when they were convinced that he has learnt the codes thoroughly, they took the boy to his mother and said:

"Mother, we have taught everything to young Prahlada as best as we can. We will take him to the king's presence today. Please adorn him well and send him."

Do not speak contrarily :

As requested by the brahmans, Leelavati dressed up her son and adorned him well. Then Chandamarkas advised him like this:

"Son! Do not speak contrary to what we have made you learn. Do not forget our teaching about dharma, artha and kama at all. Do not speak in the presence of the king today as you spoke earlier and bring harm to our lives. Do not speak anything about our enemy."

In this manner warning and cajoling Prahlada all along the way Chandamarkas took him to the King's court. Hiranyakasipa's countenance had an affectionate look and a smile on it. They pushed the kind and

obedient Prahlada, who believed that this world is filled with Vishnu, to prostrate at his father's feet and said:

"Oh Lord of the demons! we have instructed your son well. This boy has forgotten all about the enemy. So you can test him now."

When Prahlada prostrated at his father's feet and stood by his side, Hiranyakasipa embraced his son with great warmth. He seated the boy in his lap and stroked his locks affectionately. He kissed the boy's crown many times. Showering affection, looking at the boy with eyes filled with tears of joy, with sweet words the father addressed him gently like this:

"Son, it is a long time since I saw you. I am eager to know what the masters taught you with care, how they made you learn the lessons; what the extent of your study is. So, recite a verse from any of the sastras you have studied and tell me its meaning and essence. Listening to it will make me happy."

For a life of fulfilment :

When his father said so Prahlada replied: "Father! the masters taught me many things. I learnt the dharma sastra and artha sastra and many other sastras from them. I have grasped the essence of all sastras. The only remedy for life is to believe in Hari the omnipresent and follow him in the nine ways of devotion - - namely listening, praising, meditating, serving at his feet,

worshipping, saluting, being totally in his service, by friendship and by self surrender. Those families which have no devotion to Vishnu are without any essence and purpose. Hence, if this birth given by god is to be meaningful, every particle in our body should be devoted to the service of that lord - Hari. A life that does not do it is meaningless. Even a scholar who is very proud of his learning, without devotion to Hari is like a brute with two legs. The only true teacher is one who teaches about devotion to Hari. That father who teaches his son to serve at the feet of Sri Hari alone is a true father."

When Prahlada spoke in this manner his words seemed to pierce the demon lord's ears with spears. Then Hiranyakasipa, very angrily, turned to the masters and said: "You! You took him promising to teach him good moral codes but why did you teach him knowledge about the enemy? I trusted you because you are from the clan of Bhrigu and you are good brahmins. Are you really brahmins?"

We have done no wrong :

Then Chandamarkas frightened, faltering in their speech replied thus: "Oh, Lord of the demons! We are not to blame in this matter. We swear by your feet. We have not taught him anything about the enemy. No one would do that. All this has come to your son by birth and not because some one has taught him. Please think

coolly about it, oh king! We are your friends and your well wishers. Especially so because we belong to the clan of Bhrigu. We wait for your favours. Please think, are we your enemies to transform your son in this manner?"

On hearing the brahmins speak thus, leaving his anger against them, looking at Prahlada the lord of demons said:

"Tell me child, tell me the name of those persons who taught you all this which your masters did not do?"

Hearing his father speak Prahlada replied in this manner:

"Father, devotion to Hari comes by birth and not when someone instills it nor is it gained by reciting the scriptures. Those that are bound by their deeds cannot find Vishnu. Only a few in the world are capable of devotion to Hari. Even that results from the refinement from previous births. And in order to cross the terrible ocean of this world, all must be at Sri Hari's feet in worship."

The king's heart turns into a stone :

The affection that was there earlier in the demon lord's heart for his son vanished completely on hearing these words. He at once pushed the son seated on his thigh down. His anger touched the skies. His eyes

reddened. He turned towards his ministers and spoke thus:

"This terrible crooked does not eschew Hari the killer of his uncle in the form of an earthly boar, but in



addition, he serves Hari like a servant, he has become a devotee and cannot forget him. He is even prepared to sacrifice his life for Hari. He is developing enmity with me his own father. Have you seen such a one, a betrayer of father?" Turning immediately to the demons he ordered: "Oh, demons! This fellow is not even five years old. Yet without any fear he derides me his own father and sings in praise of Hari again and again. He is not taking our advice to give up Hari. A disease in my body has taken shape in this form as son. So, take him away, kill him and come back. Go away. This boy who is witless, traitor of the clan and on the side of Hari should be killed in order to wash away the blemish to the clan. You must kill him. There is no scope for the thought of saving him

any more. He must go to the abode of Yama. Do not show any sign of forgiveness, kill him and come back."

Ordered by Hiranyakasipa, some sharp canined demons, holding spears, opening their mouths wide and uttering loud cries held Prahlada firmly and piercing him with spears began to thrash him. They did not show any consideration because he was young or he was the king's son, because he was kind hearted or he was good; physically they tortured him very much.

How surprising !

Even though he was tortured in this manner the boy's body did not bear the brunt. There was no bleeding. His body did not show bruises. His limbs were unhurt. There was no change in his looks. His face did not lose its radiance. The demon king was greatly surprised. He said to himself:

"This little fellow-why does he not shed a tear when the demons pierce him with spears? Again and again he cries - - 'Oh! the one reclining on the serpent! Oh!, destroyer of the demons! Oh, lord of the world! Oh,protector of the ones in great distress!' - - and praises Hari. Why he is not afraid in the least!"

What is to be done now ?

The demon king, unable to control his anger ordered his son to be trampled by elephants. He ordered the boy to be bitten by snakes. He had the

boy thrown into blazing fire and thrown into the sea. Gave him poisoned food. Hurtled him down from hill tops. Tortured him. Made him stand in hot sun and in pouring rain. Had the nine holes in his body closed. Frightened the boy in several ways by his demonic tricks. He made him stand alone in thick snow and stand against strong gales. Buried him in earth. He starved the boy without giving food and water. He had him beaten with whips, stones maces and arrows. And tried to kill him in many ways. Prahlada did not die. Hiranyakasipa did not know what to do. He sat thinking. He came to the conclusion that Prahlada was a boy of great power and that this enmity with Prahlada would surely bring him death.

Then Chandamarkas speak to Hiranyakasipa :

"Oh, Supreme among the demons! You are a man of great renown. You are a king of great valour. Your looks sent the lord of heavens helter skelter. What is this boy to you? Do not be disturbed on his account. Though he may be bad in his childhood; this boy will grow up into being a virtuous one by serving the elders. As he grows up he will become wiser. Then we can turn him into a hater of Hari. It is better to be at peace now. By the time Sukracharya returns your son will become a wise one."

Hiranyakasipa was pacified by the advice of the sons of his guru. Asking them to teach Prahlada the

codes of dharma, artha and kama which should be learnt by householder kings. He sent back his son with the masters. They taught him the codes of dharma, artha and kama again. But there was no change in Prahlada's mind. He came to the conclusion that such study has no purpose at all. When the masters were away he invited his fellow pupils to play and taught them about Hari.

How did you gain this knowledge ?



The boys were all surprised to hear Prahlada's teachings. They asked him like this: "It is the same masters who taught all of us. No one else did it. Who taught you all this? Where did they teach you all this?" Then Prahlada replied as follows:

"Once my father started a terrible penance on mount Mandara. Ants crawled up his body and ate his flesh and blood. But he did not care. The Gods thought that this sinful soul was dead. They led an invasion against our demon population all of who left their wives, children, relatives

and friends and ran away. I was in my mother's womb then. Devendra captured and took my pregnant mother with him. But by divine grace maharshi Narada who saw her reprimanded him and took my mother with him to his asram. The maharshi treated her as his own daughter and let her stay in the asram till I was born. He comforted her in several ways. He told her, "You are a great wife. There is a great, great devout soul in your womb. Soon your husband will come back to you having won boons. You can remain here without a care until then." He started telling her about the essence of dharma and about pure knowledge for my sake. I heard all that he said from my mother's womb. I shall not forget it ever. It is that wisdom which is protecting me till today. Because you are my friends I intend to tell you all about it. Listen attentively."

He is spoiling everybody :

"We know that this body is not permanent. Only the soul is permanent. The soul is indestructible. But we are not able to leave the illusion about this body. If that illusion is dispelled we will have no more sorrow. For that illusion to go we must seek refuge at Sri Hari's lotus feet. So, instead of wasting time we should be meditating on him. Stop learning from the masters, give back the books to them. Let us go to a secluded place, let us spend time dancing and singing about Hari."

On hearing the words of Prahlada, the demon children, stopped learning from the gurus and began to sing hymns in praise of Hari. Chandamarkas saw it all, understood their mood, ran to the demon king and made their submission:

"Sir, oh king of demons! Your son has gathered all the fellow boys and he is steeping them in devotion to Hari. It is not merely this; the children also defied us saying that their masters have never told them stories of Hari and went along with him. So your son should be brought back to the right path."

I will not let you live any longer :

On hearing from the masters about the preachings of his son Prahlada about devotion to Hari, Hiranyakasipa rose in anger hissing like a snake stepped on by a human.

"You fellow! You are defying my orders and behaving wildly with least regard for me. Why do you talk of the dweller of Vaikuntha and Vasudeva from time to time? Why do you prattle that none can conquer that Hari? If in fact he is valorous, when I was punishing and killing the Gods what need that should he be hiding instead of coming to the battle field? You are teaching about the way to liberation and creating interest in devotion to Hari in your fellow boys. You are destroying the customs of my demon clan with your

talkativeness and praise of Hari. You, traitor to the clan! I will not let you live another moment. I will kill you and purify the clan. I conquered the world. I subdued lords of all sides. I will see who among them-Devendra or others will come to your rescue. With whose support do you intend to oppose me of such great strength?"

Your mind is your enemy :

To his father who spoke thus in his rage Prahlada replied softly and obediently:

"Father! He that is causing all creatures to live is my strength and guide. Do you know who your true enemy is in this world? It is your own mind. It is very beneficial to get the mind under your control. Leave that demonic attitude of arrogance and be at ease. You have conquered the world in no time. But you are unable to conquer your senses and your mind. If you can conquer the six enemies within you, there will not be even one single enemy left in the world for you. Be judicious."

Having heard all the boy spoke the demon king said:

"You crook! Not afraid of being killed, are you enraging me futher by your sharp words? You have decided to face death. That is why you are defying me in this manner. Who else is a greater God than me to all creatures? I searched many times for that Hari when he killed my brother. But I did not find him anywhere

in the world. You mean creature, what is that place where he dwells? Tell me where he is? I will kill both him and you.

Sri Hari is everywhere :

Prahlada, instead of being angry with his father who spoke thus, thought of Hari, saluted him and prancing about being a child, said:

"Oh, Lord of the demons! There is no room for doubt about Hari being here or Hari not being there. He can be found wherever one sees-in the seas, in air, in the sky, on earth, in fire, on all sides, at night and during day, in stars, in moon, in sun, in the sound Om, in the trinity and in the trilingas, he is there in all."

In this manner as Hiranyakasipa and Prahlada argued that Hari existsts and he does not, that lord in the form of Narasimha of great power permeated the whole world in the movable and static life. At that moment pointing his finger at the pillar in front of him the demon king asked Prahlada:

Show me your Hari in this pillar :

"You little fellow! You have been arguing that your Hari is there in all places. Is it so? Can you show me your Hari in this pillar? If you do not show me your Hari in this pillar, at once I will cut off your head and throw it down. I will then see to what extent he can come to your defence."



On hearing this Prahlada replied :

"My lord who is there in the whole world from Brahman to the blade of grass, how can he not be here in this big pillar? He will certainly be here. There is no doubt at all. If you are desirous of seeing him, he will certainly appear before you."

On hearing this the demon lord at once climbed down from his throne, drew the sword from its sheath, brandished it shouting at Prahlada, "didn't you say your Hari is here in this pillar?" and in exceeding arrogance gave a strong blow on the pillar with his hand.

This was an enmity with god that the demon lord invited for himself. The flaw in him grew greatly due to this enmity. Because of the flaw in him all wisdom, discretion and humility left him. And his solemnity and courage also failed him gradually. It was only his arrogance that remained active in him as ever.

Narasimha had arisen :

Forgetful of his self, roaring, glaring at Prahlada, "Show me your Hari in this," shouted Hiranyakasipa and as the golden bracelets on his hand - the hand that broke the tusks of divine elephants tinkled - he struck the pillar in the court hall. The pillar shook and embers flew from it in all directions. A great sound such as great thunder as clouds clash emanated from it. The

sound struck terror into hearts of all creatures-nescient and conscient. The whole world trembled.

And then from the middle of the pillar appeared two red feet like a pair of lotuses in full bloom. There were five marks on the feet - of the disc,arrow, plough, goad and fish. When the feet stepped on earth the great earth bearing prime serpent Adisesha and the seven mountain ranges, the prime tortoise Adikurma were all subdued.

With great power mainfesting might and immense kindness Lord Narasimha emerged from the pillar to save Prahlada the virtuous and to punish the evil Hiranyakasipa. That was not a human form. That was not even the lion's form. It was the delusory form of Hari combining in one the features of man and lion.

When he saw such rising of Narasimha, Hiranyakasipa knew that his end had approached. He had now confirmed that Narasimha came on the call of Prahlada to prove to all that he is omnipresent indeed and that his death is certain. Yet in spite of this Hiranyakasipa thought that he could kill the enemy while every body watched his strength and superiority.

Without losing heart, he took his mace, and like elephant that approaches a lion, the demon king approached the Man - Lion lord. The lord's divine radiance dulled the demon overlord's glow. Immediately, the demon king took a big weapon - a

mace and flung it on Narasimha. The lord was angry yet he caught hold of Hiranyakasipa cleverly and carried him to the main threshold.

In accordance with lord Brahma's boon - at twilight that is at a time that is neither day or night, using his claws which have life yet are lifeless, on the threshold a place that is neither inside the house nor out, placing on his thighs which is neither land nor sky, being neither man nor animal in the form of Narahari, the lord tore



Hiranyakasipa’s heart and let his blood flow on earth. He pulled out the demon’s innards and wore them around his neck.

When some soldiers of Hiranyakasipa tried to attack, Narasimha still fierce killed them too and with a frightening roar went and sat on the throne which was there.

Narasimhamurty was not pacified :

Brahma and other gods, siddhas, sadhyas, lord of all sides - dikpalakas seeing the lord in his very enraged form, his face flaming in fury could not approach him and so each sang his praise on his own. Even then the lord was not pacified. The fire of his rage did not come down. Then they prayed to goddess Lakshmi. They said: “Oh, mother! Your lord Sri Hari, in order to protect his devotee, took on this form of Narasimha. He is in his most frightening form. So, please be by his side and pacify him mother!” Goddesses Lakshmi approached him and in many ways prayed to him to assume his peaceful form. But he did not become normal. In that state, Brahma considering that it was only his very great devotee Prahlada who could calm the fury of an angry Narasimha, called Prahlada and said:

“Son! Sri Hari assumed this terrible form for the sake of your father and he is not able to let up that intense ire. So please pacify him.”

When Brahma said this, Prahlada singing in praise of Hari approached lord Narasimha in great joy and fell prostrate at his feet in salutation. The god placed his protective hand on Prahlada's head. Then Prahlada, rid of fear, shedding tears of joy praised him. Thus pacified lord Narasimha said to the boy:

I have no desire :

"Son, Prahlada! Your unparalleled devotion has given me great pleasure. You are foremost among the devotees who have pleased me. Hence, ask for a boon, I shall grant you."

The God of Gods spoke so in order to know about the desires that were there in Prahlada's mind. But Prahlada did not have any desires and considering that desires are obstacles to bhakti yoga, he said:

"Oh God of Gods! From the time of my birth to this day I have had no intention of enjoying the pleasures of life. I have sought your protection seeking liberation. So grant me the boon that I shall have no more desires, lord!"

The very form of bliss Sri Hari listening to the boy, said:

"Prahlada! Wise persons like you will not ask for fulfilment of their desires. Yet, be the king of demons and enjoy all pleasures in this whole era of Manu. Keep listening to my stories always. Eschew actions, worship



me the omnipresent without desiring the fruit of your worship. Because of the pleasures you enjoy in this life all the results of your virtues will be dissolved. Similarly, because of your observances the fruits of your sins will be absolved. Then, giving up this body, you shall reach my abode. And moreover those who study about the attributes of my incarnations and those events of your life will be liberated from the bonds of action and attain salvation."

On hearing Sri Hari, Prahlada said like this :

"Oh God! My father hated you because you killed his brother Hiranyaksha assuming the form of a boar. He was not able to know about your true form. He tortured me very much because I worshipped you. Such was my father who is purified by your touch now. So please grant him the abode of virtuous worlds."

Lord Narasimha smiled when Prahlada spoke so and said, "Son, and those persons who live in such places where devotees like you live and are touched by the air that comes past you, become liberated and become qualified to reach the virtuous worlds. Sixty one generations of your clan along with your father have reached those worlds. So you need not be sad about them."

Prahlada became supremely happy at the kindness shown by the lord in this manner. Brahma praised the lord in many ways and pronounced. "Whosoever

meditates with inner purity on this form of yours, let such persons not have troubles from Yama. Let them be free from mortality!"

Do not grant such boons :

Then lord Narasimha said, "Oh, the Four Faced! Do not grant such boons to demons. Granting such boons is like handing ambrosia to serpents" and disappeared.

Then lord Brahma anointed Prahlada as the king who received the blessings of all.

Thus in this manner the duo Jaya and Vijaya were born as Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakasipa. Sri Hari slayed them in the form of a boar and then as Narasimha. Then they were born as Ravana and Kumbhakarna. Vishnu slayed them in the form of Sri Ramachandra. Then later when they were born as Sisupala and Dantavaktra the dweller of Vaikuntha, taking birth as Sri Krishna put an end to their lives. In this manner the duo Jaya and Vijaya, born as the enemies of Sri Hari in three lives, reached the abode of Hari in their fourth life.

